DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 356 416 CE 063 527

TITLE Illinois JTPA: Great Beginnings.
INSTITUTION Illinois State Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs, Springfield.
PUB DATE [92]
NOTE 41p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adult Education; Basic Skills; Career Education; Cooperative Programs; Coordination; Federal Legislation; Job Skills; *Job Training; *Program Effectiveness; *State Programs; Success
IDENTIFIERS *Illinois; *Job Training Partnership Act 1982

ABSTRACT

This booklet presents the inspirational stories of 31 people who were served by Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) programs in Illinois. Their stories reflect the mission and success of JTPA in Illinois and illustrate how these 31 individuals with diverse backgrounds--school dropouts, teen parents, former substance abusers, welfare recipients, the disabled, the homeless, the chronically unemployed, dislocated workers--have something in common: they turned to JTPA in search of a better life and left the program as productive members of society. Appendixes include statistics on JTPA in Illinois and telephone numbers for Illinois Service Delivery Areas. (YLB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED356416

Illinois JTPA Great Beginnings

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

J Grayson

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

The Job Training Partnership Act
Administered by the
Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

CE063527

**What you can do,
or dream you can,
begin it.**

-Von Goethe-

Illinois JTPA
Great Beginnings

Illinois is a state of workers. From the City of Big Shoulders to the Shawnee National Forest, from farmers tilling the soil to scientists unlocking secrets of the atom at Fermilab, Illinois' workers are among the most productive in the world.

Unfortunately, however, there are many Illinoisans unable to share in this prosperity. Often through no fault of their own, they find themselves locked in a cycle of joblessness, dependent upon public assistance for their basic needs.

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) is successfully breaking through the barriers to employment. Since its inception in 1983, this public-private partnership has helped thousands of Illinoisans learn basic skills, pursue educational goals, train for careers and find jobs. In fact, during Program Year 1990 (July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991), nearly 86,000 Illinoisans were served by JTPA programs. More than 23,000 were placed in permanent jobs, unsubsidized by government payments. Over 27,000 youths landed summer employment — opportunities that could break the cycle of joblessness. These statistics are important — JTPA was one of the first federal programs to set strict performance standards to measure accountability.

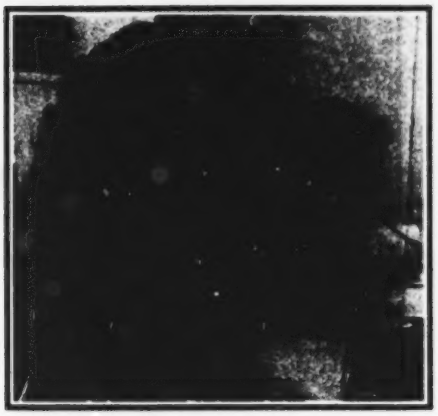
JTPA represents a public/private partnership involving the federal government, the state and local communities. Administered by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), Illinois' JTPA programs are operated at the local level in 26 Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) by Private Industry Councils (PICs), which bring business and industry leaders into the partnership. Nearly one-half of the 700 PIC members in Illinois represent the business community; other members come from labor and community-based organizations, educational institutions, human service agencies and local governments. Together, these PIC members offer advice on local labor market trends and training needs, working to help in both the design and management of local JTPA programs.

JTPA is working. More important, the people served by JTPA also are working. In the following pages, you will meet 31 people whose stories reflect the mission and success of JTPA in Illinois. All have diverse backgrounds — school dropouts, teen parents, former substance abusers, welfare recipients, the disabled, the homeless, the chronically unemployed, dislocated workers — yet all have something in common — they turned to JTPA in search of a better life and left JTPA as productive members of society.

DCCA is proud to share these inspirational stories. Further information about JTPA services in Illinois may be obtained by calling 217-785-6006 or your local Service Delivery Area.

Profiles

Marilyn Bergstrand 1
Marie Burnett 2
Kevin Britt 3
Kenody Charlton 4
Torrie Clark 5
Mary Clay 6
Dick Conboy 7
Latonia Cross 8
Kevin Delbridge 9
Linda Drumm 10
Darlene Hale 11
Dale Hanson 12
Marcia Hogan 13
Ed Howell 14
Harold Jones 15
Patricia Kershaw 16
Chyrrise Lash 17
Ron Lavoie 18
Dan Matuszczak 19
Marcia McCreary 20
Teri McElwee 21
Betty Pellegrini 22
Laurie Powers 23
Elias Quintero 24
Dorothey Roberts 25
Betty Sasade 26
John Small 27
Sandra Smith 28
Copache Tyler 29
Rita Williams 30
Sik Yu Tsang (John) 31



Marilyn Bergstrand

Marilyn Bergstrand was desperate. Out of the workforce for 15 years rearing six children, Marilyn found herself needing public assistance to support her family. Depressed and tired from the strains of single parenthood, the Milan woman found inspiration in a newspaper advertisement promoting an advanced clerical training course at Moline's Black Hawk College.

Marilyn's Public Aid caseworker encouraged her to apply for the class. Co-funded by Partners in Job Training (SDA 13), the class was designed to teach students business correspondence skills and basic accounting, as well as familiarity with new office technology — word processors, telefax machines and computers.

Marilyn's skills were rusty, but she worked hard to learn. Early for class, she never missed a day and always completed her homework. Her children benefited from her positive example — each night, the family sat down after dinner to do homework together.

Marilyn progressed rapidly. Even before completing her training course, she applied for and was selected for employment as a clerical trainee with the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Her courtesy, friendly manners, punctuality and professionalism, coupled with her determination, have won continued praise and respect from her supervisors and co-workers.

It's been three years since a newspaper advertisement changed her life. Today, Marilyn Bergstrand supports herself and her family, working for the very agency that once supported her.

Marie Burnett

Marie "Mickey" Burnett of Byron, a single mother with three children, was finding it difficult to support her family on her clerical salary. "For a year, I was struggling to make ends meet," Mickey says. "No matter how hard I worked, in the clerical field my earning potential was limited."

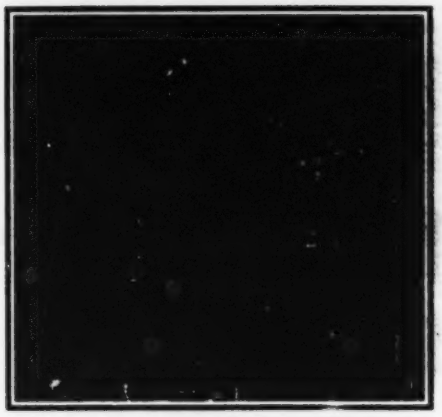
Mickey found an answer in Rock River Training Corporation's JTPA On-the-Job Training (OJT) program. "The Rock River Training JTPA program provided me with the first stepping stone on my new career path," she says. "Through JTPA, I discovered that women were being considered in the plumbing and heating field. I admit the work isn't easy, but I enjoy it."

Lin Odell, Rock River Training Corporation Employer Account Representative, worked closely with Mickey. "Mickey had great clerical skills, but knew her earning potential was limited, so she selected a non-traditional field. She's pretty small, but isn't afraid to dig in there with the guys and get her hands dirty. I think she's adapted well and gained the respect of her co-workers in a field largely dominated by men."

Odell worked diligently to sell the JTPA OJT program to a Rockford plumbing and heating firm, emphasizing its benefits to the employer: pre-screening of applicants, eliminating advertising and personnel costs; a 50 percent reimbursement to help offset employee training costs. Rock River Training Corporation staff also worked with Mickey, stressing interviewing techniques.

Their efforts were successful. Completing a year-long contract as a plumber assistant with the plumbing and heating firm, Mickey became the first female refrigeration/heating journeyman in Local 23. Says Odell, "It wasn't easy for her, working and training while raising a young family. But she was determined to pursue a serious career that would improve her earning potential."

Mickey Burnett puts it this way, "I have three great kids and they have really been my inspiration. Whenever things got tough, I'd just look at them and knew they deserved a good life."



Kevin Britt

At age 21, Kevin Britt was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army due to family hardships. But for this Decatur man, the hardships were just beginning. Besides caring for his wife and young son, an epileptic, Kevin also was responsible for his father, a double amputee and diabetic, and his 15-year-old brother.

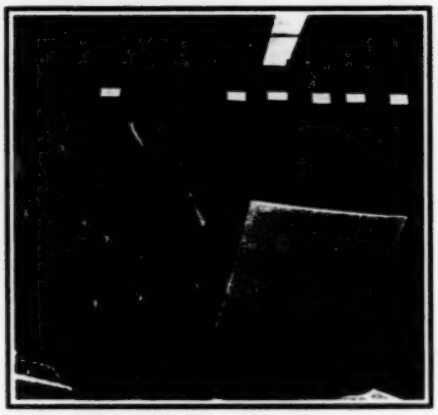
Kevin found employment as a security guard, but the family pressures mounted, and, after a few months, he was unemployed.

Two years passed. In April 1989, Kevin enrolled in JTPA. Counselors encouraged him to interview for a job opening at the Wabel Tool plant in Decatur, but Kevin missed the interview — he lacked confidence in his interviewing skills. JTPA staff worked closely with Kevin, helping him with interviewing techniques. A second interview at Wabel Tool was scheduled and Kevin was successful! He entered on-the-job training as a machine operator trainee.

Kevin worked hard; in fact, he worked too hard. Only six weeks into the job, Kevin hurt his back. Brushing the injury aside, he continued working until the condition worsened, forcing him to lay off the job for 11 weeks under workers' compensation.

Kevin's sincerity and desire, however, had impressed his superiors. When he returned to work, his machines were adjusted to relieve the back strain. Wishing to enhance his opportunities for promotion, Kevin enrolled in a six-week blueprint reading course. After completing the course, he passed the company's test, enabling him to advance to a highly technical position with Wabel Tool.

Kevin Britt's perseverance and ambition have helped him overcome the odds. Today, he is a valuable employee at Wabel Tool and has learned skills to help him remain a productive worker in the years to come.



Kenody Charlton

After several productive years of working, 57-year-old Kenody "Ken" Charlton of Champaign found himself in an uncomfortable position — unemployed. For more than a year, Ken looked for work. Finally, discouraged and depressed, he faced facts: potential employers thought he was too old.

Ken Charlton turned to the Champaign Consortium's Job Club for encouragement. He found that, and more. Through the organization's On-the-Job Training (OJT), he secured work in the marketing department at Champaign's MPC Reloading, a small firm that recycles plastic tape cartridges used in typewriters, computers and office machines, safely disposing of old tapes and reloading the cartridges with new tapes.

Ken Charlton was determined to prove to his new employers that age was no barrier to work ability. During his OJT, Ken never missed a day of work. His talent and dedication won the much-needed respect he had lacked; in fact, Ken has earned three pay raises and is now Marketing Director of the company. His responsibilities range from opening new accounts to distributing finished products.

Mike Coval, a partner at MPC Reloading, says Ken is one of his company's greatest assets. And that's no small compliment — from a small firm with fewer than 100 clients in 1989, MPC Reloading now serves more than 500 clients, including the University of Illinois and firms in Decatur, Bloomington-Normal and Danville.

Ken Charlton has not forgotten the encouragement Job Club and the Champaign Consortium offered during his job search. He is a frequent guest at Job Club meetings, talking with participants and encouraging their quests for employment. He says, "I don't know where I'd be today without JTPA. I am happy to give back some of the help and encouragement it gave me."

Ken Charlton's success is an inspiration to all. In 1990, he was awarded a statewide JTPA Participant Award by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

Torrie Clark

Torrie Clark of Peoria is an outstanding role model for other youths. But her story could have taken a different turn.

Torrie, the second of three children, was brought up by her mother, Deloris, a single parent who relies on public assistance as the sole source of family income. Although she had completed ninth grade, 15-year-old Torrie exhibited low self-esteem and was categorized "at risk," testing at a sixth-grade level in reading and seventh-grade level in math.

In 1989, Torrie was recruited into Peoria's Summer Training and Education Program (STEP), an innovative, 15-month program that teaches work skills while emphasizing academic achievement. One morning she was caught spray-painting graffiti on the school's restroom walls. Program staff directed her to take responsibility for her actions, and she tearfully scrubbed away the graffiti.

The incident sparked a turnaround in Torrie's life. Over the summer her academic skills improved. Her job supervisors at the American Red Cross and her teachers noted the change. Torrie continued to participate in STEP activities throughout the following school year, and by the second summer, the Red Cross asked to have her back.

Torrie Clark is no longer an underachiever. At the end of the 15-month STEP, she achieved a four-year gain in reading and a one-and-a-half-year gain in math skills. She's learned responsibility and gained self-esteem. She's determined to get a good education and knows education is the key to a good job.

This successful STEP graduate seems to be well on her way to a bright future. The American Red Cross has hired Torrie as a tele-recruiter, calling blood donors, entering information into computers, recording client complaints and processing paperwork. Torrie, who often refers other students to JTPA programs, credits STEP and JTPA with her success.

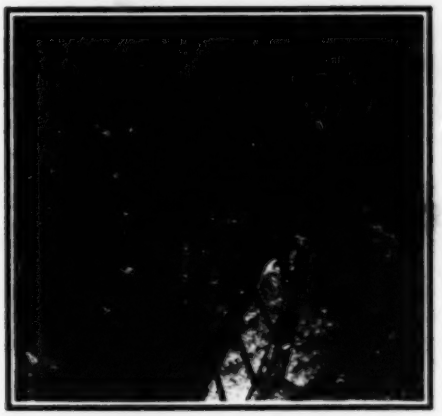
Mary Clay

"Your self-esteem kind of hits rock bottom," says Mary Clay, referring to the 1987 loss of her job as a punch press operator. Mary, a Chicago woman whose spotty work history included stints as a barmaid, cook and cashier, had viewed her job as a financially-secure career. Then, at age 41, she had to start over again.

Mary's determination to have a career, not just a job, led her to Chicago's ITT Career Training Center. She enrolled in the Electronic Office Machine Repair Program, funded through the Chicago Mayor's Office of Employment and Training. "At first, it was like a foreign language to me," she says. "I knew nothing about computers or related equipment. But the class was informative and the staff at ITT was very supportive. They went out of their way to assist me in any way they could. They gave my self-confidence back to me."

Mary learned to rebuild copiers and computers. Her skills, coupled with her newly-regained confidence, helped her secure employment as an entry-level technician with Xerox Corporation, earning $5.99 per hour. Over the next three years, Mary was promoted. Today, Mary is an assembly tester with supervisory responsibilities, earning $13.99 per hour. As evidence of her confidence in her abilities, Mary works with the company's safety and recreation committees and also serves on a problem-solving team.

Mary credits JTPA and the staff at ITT with her success. "The people at ITT are so fantastic. The confidence they gave me helped me grow in my job. And the more confident you feel, the more you can take control of your life."



Dick Conboy

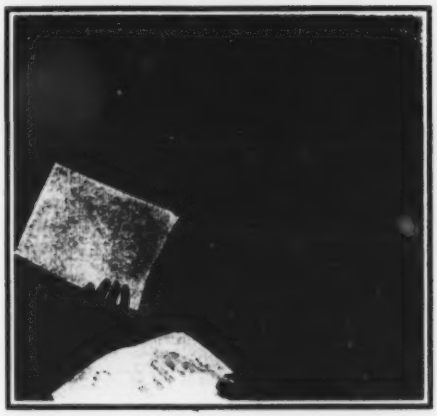
Dick Conboy was disillusioned and frustrated when he walked into the Central Illinois Private Industry Council's office seeking information on programs for older workers. Although the Peoria man held degrees in economics and sociology from Loyola University, had worked as a manufacturers' representative for several well-known electronics companies, and had served as a purchasing agent for a large appliance manufacturer, Dick was finding it difficult to find a job.

Interviews with JTPA staff pinpointed Dick's problem: he no longer held any enthusiasm for his former line of work. His intelligence, determination and sharp sense of humor came through, however, when Dick talked about his first love — the sociology studies he had left behind so many years before.

Despite his desire to pursue a social service position, immediate financial worries had to take precedence. JTPA staff referred Dick to the PIC Job Search Assistance Program and the Title V Program operated by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Through AARP, Dick landed a part-time job to meet his financial needs, while PIC helped him arrange for classes at Illinois Central College, allowing him to brush up on his sociology studies.

While attending Job Search Assistance, Dick received a lead on a position with the Illinois Department of Public Aid. He traveled to Springfield, tested successfully, then waited. And waited. He continued to attend Job Club meetings and refused to give up hope that the job would be his. Finally, after nearly a year, the call came. Dick was hired.

Today, thanks to PIC, AARP and his own perseverance, Dick Conboy is living his dream, using his knowledge of sociology as a social service worker for the State of Illinois.



Latonia Cross

Latonia Cross has beaten the odds. An unwed, teenage mother of two, living in Chicago's Cabrini-Green housing project, Latonia could easily have given up on any hopes for a successful career. But the Lincoln Park High School senior wanted something better for herself and her children. She saw that opportunity in the job training program at the Institute of Economic Development in Chicago.

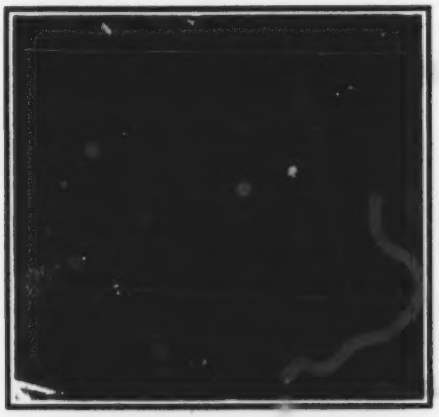
Latonia entered the "Try Out Employment" program, funded by the Chicago Mayor's Office of Employment and Training, and was placed in a work experience job at the law office of attorney Josette Belvedere. Belvedere encouraged Latonia to develop her skills, and after three years, Latonia had been promoted to office manager.

Soon, Latonia was offered a position as a special assistant in the law offices of Snyder and Elliott, a larger firm. She welcomed the increased responsibility; in fact, her exposure to the field of law instilled a new goal in Latonia: a law degree. Today, the 22-year-old is a full-time student at Loyola University with plans to attend law school.

"This is exactly what the Job Training Partnership Act is all about," says Carol Dougal, Executive Director of the Institute for Economic Development. "Latonia came to our office with few prospects and no job experience. She has learned how to work and has acquired valuable job skills. Subsequently, on her own, she was able to move into another job, using the skills she learned. She's on the right track to take charge of her life.

Latonia credits the Institute and Josette Belvedere for her transition from struggling teenager to successful adult. "I learned a lot about setting goals. Josette Belvedere and the people at the Institute really helped. Now I feel like I'm on my way to having enough skills and experiences to do a lot of things with my life, and I'm a good role model for my kids."

In recognition of her achievements, Latonia received a participant award at the 1991 Service Provider Banquet, co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training and the Chicago Private Industry Council.



Kevin Delbridge

Kevin Delbridge, a native of Sidell, a farming community in East Central Illinois, is the first member of his family to attend college. At Jamaica High School, he took vocational classes and received no special encouragement to consider further education. He graduated in 1980, still undecided about a career objective. However, he was certain that, in the factory and warehouse jobs he held, opportunities for advancement were limited. Believing that education would lead to career-oriented positions, Kevin studied Travel/Tourism and, later, Data Processing, at Parkland College. Neither choice caught Kevin's interest, and he returned to low-paying unskilled jobs with irregular or seasonal hours.

Kevin enrolled in Parkland's Comprehensive Adult Employment Development (CAED) program in 1989 after deciding, once again, that education was the key to achievement of his career goals. He selected Mass Communications Visual Arts, since he had enjoyed drawing in elementary and secondary school. Through perseverance and enthusiasm for graphic arts/design, Kevin gradually gained confidence that he could succeed. His excellent natural ability soon became apparent, and he learned quickly by applying theoretical concepts to hands-on situations.

The change in Kevin is remarkable. He entered the CAED program unsure of his goals, options, and capabilities. Today, he is a professional graphic artist with clearly defined goals and many potential career opportunities: freelance art; commercial art; design; advertising; desktop publications; paste-up; production.

Based on Kevin's level of skill and motivation, it is easy to predict many successes for him.

Linda Drumm

Linda Drumm was interviewing with an employment counselor when the young woman told her she was "too old to get a job." Determined to prove her wrong, the "fiftysomething" Mattoon woman turned to the Lake Land College Dislocated Worker Program, indicating she wanted to take classes in accounting and improve her life.

It wouldn't be easy. Linda, divorced after 17 years of marriage, was struggling to care for two daughters and a sick mother. After 13 years at the Mattoon Garment Factory, her job had disappeared with the factory's closure. Her mother's heart disease and cancer required constant care.

Linda's family, however, supported her decision. She also found support and encouragement from the Lake Land staff, who assisted her in helping set goals.

Linda poured herself into her studies. Although working at a part-time job and caring for her mother, she held a full class schedule, became an active member of the Accounting Club and was initiated into Phi Theta Kappa education honorary society for her outstanding scholarship. Whenever she felt overwhelmed, her mother spurred her on.

Three days following her graduation, Linda was hired as a bookkeeper for Specialized Imaging, a medical testing company with a mobile unit that travels to medical offices. Sadly, her mother was unable to share her success — she died a month before Linda graduated.

Linda continues to support the Dislocated Worker Program. Recently, she was chosen by Lake Land to participate in a panel discussion held at a state rapid response meeting, discussing the feelings and problems of dislocated workers. But she says her real inspiration came from the young woman who thought she was too old to work. "She was wrong. She probably did me a favor, though. She made my determination that much stronger and I thought, 'I'll show her.' Being young or old, married or single is not important. Having a positive attitude and willingness to learn determines who is successful."

Darlene Hale

Darlene Hale of Danville dreamed of a career as a registered nurse. But as a 27-year-old mother of three, supporting her children on public assistance, Darlene faced multiple barriers to her goal. Willing to work, her part-time jobs did not pay enough to support her family. And, although she had been accepted into Danville's Lakeview School of Nursing, Darlene had no money for school.

In summer 1986, Darlene came to the Job Training Partnership office at Danville Area Community College. JTPA staff helped her prepare a career plan, provided counseling and support services, and agreed to pay for her schooling. Darlene reciprocated by attending a full schedule of classes, maintaining above-average grades, working 30 hours per week at a local bank and participating in family activities.

Well into her training, Darlene gave birth to her fourth child. Although she missed a few weeks of school, she successfully completed the semester. Then hardship struck again: Darlene's baby had spinal meningitis. For three weeks, Darlene did nothing but attend classes and shuttle to Indianapolis where the baby was hospitalized. He recovered, but was left hearing-impaired.

Darlene's determination and optimism never waned. She graduated from Lakeview School of Nursing and passed her R.N. exam. Hired by Lakeview Hospital, she soon was offered a better position at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

Today, Darlene is happily married and earns more than $26,000 a year. She has learned sign language to communicate with her son, who is enrolled in a special pre-school for the hearing-impaired. And she is a staunch advocate for JTPA."I am happy to be an inspiration to others and my own children," says Darlene. "It doesn't matter what's going on in your life — you can become someone."

Dale Hanson

Dale Hanson of Gilson had farmed for more than 30 years. Then the agricultural crisis of the mid-1980s wiped out his resources. In 1987, Dale stood helplessly as his farm was completely closed out. "No one can realize the emotional impact such a sale will have on someone unless he or she has been through it," he says.

Dale knew that his career as a farmer was over, but he refused to accept defeat. Dale visited the Knox County JTPA Field Office and decided to try something new — computer-aided design (CAD). It was Dale's first experience with such high technology equipment and, for that matter, his first visit to a classroom since graduation from high school 40 years before. It was strange. "Imagine going back to school after 40 years. The students looked like they belonged in junior high school and the teachers not much older. But the instructors and the JTPA staff were very knowledgeable and helpful in so many ways."

Hanson is enthusiastic about his new field. "The system is so refined, it is accurate to 14 decimal places — enough to show errors in dimension equal to the width of a human hair a hundred miles long. And yet, the computer program is so sophisticated it can correct, in less than a minute, numerous errors caused by just one small mistake in measurement input."

Roland Friestad, responsible for CAD-CAM training at Galesburg's Carl Sandburg College, says Dale is consistent and conscientious. "He has made much improvement in the time I've been able to observe him," Friestad says. "What he may lack in the way of confidence, compared to a younger student, is more than offset by the keen judgment he uses in overcoming a design problem. He has chosen a career in which there is substantial demand, and one where his disability (a prosthetic left arm) is not a substantial handicap. If he continues to work as hard and diligently as he has here, there will be some commensurate challenges available when he completes his certificate requirements."

Hanson says the JTPA program has given him new opportunity. "I will never know all the people who created JTPA, but I sure wish to thank them all," he says.

Marcia Hogan

Marcia Hogan's life has seen many ups and downs. Born and reared in Chicago, during young adulthood she struggled to keep food on the table. In 1970, Marcia moved to Carbondale and took a job as activity director for a shelter care facility. Four years later, she met and married an attorney. Life was good. Marcia gave birth to two daughters and quit her job.

In 1983, the good times ended. Marcia and her husband divorced. She and her daughters were forced to move out of their home into an apartment. Marcia started working for the City of Carbondale as a community care worker, then rose to be supervisor for the program. When, after six years, the city decided against renewing its contract with the Department on Aging, Marcia was unemployed. She sought assistance through the Dislocated Worker Program at John A. Logan College and began studying criminal justice. A board member with the League of Women Voters, Marcia also served as an intern in the office of Congressman Glenn Poshard.

Dan Gray, Classroom Training Counselor/Facilitator of JTPA programs at the college, said, "Marcia is extremely cooperative and appreciative of the JTPA program. She has been an outstanding student." Marcia returns the praise. "My experience has been that the staff members took a genuine interest in me and my situation from the very first day I walked in the door."

In December 1990, Marcia won the John A. Logan College Presidential Scholar Award, given to sophomore students with perfect 5.0 grade point averages upon completion of 28 semester hours. She also received the Kathryn Kost Scholarship and was invited to join Phi Theta Kappa.

Many 41-year-old students have doubts about their academic abilities. JTPA helped Marcia Hogan overcome those fears. Marcia now plans to attend Southern Illinois University, majoring in administration of justice, and would eventually like to earn her master's degree, continuing her involvement with community-based programs. "I will always be very thankful that the JTPA staff was here to build my confidence and help me believe I could accomplish my goals," she says.

Ed Howell

Ed Howell was an unemployed 44-year-old Vietnam veteran when he walked into the McHenry County JTPA office in December 1990. After 22 years in various factory jobs, the Woodstock man had been out of work since the preceding April. Although he had searched for a job, the search had proven fruitless. Ed had exhausted his unemployment benefits and was receiving food stamps and assistance from his family.

After initial conversations, it was clear to the JTPA staff that Ed lacked a clear career objective. Ed's first step was to enroll in an in-house career exploration workshop in which both his interests and abilities could be measured through tests. By the end of the two-week workshop, Ed knew he wanted to return to warehouse/stock work, but he was unsure of his abilities — he had been away from this field for 14 years.

The McHenry County JTPA staff helped Ed rewrite his resume and coached him in interviewing skills. Before long, the JTPA job developer got a lead on a job with varied responsibilities, including warehouse/stock work. An on-the-job training contract was written, Ed interviewed for the position, and was hired on the spot. Ed quickly returned to the JTPA office to share his joy and give thanks.

Ed started working the following Monday. All reports indicate he is happy and doing a good job.

All those involved agreed it was a "win-win" situation. Ed was impressed with the caring and teamwork exhibited by the JTPA staff who helped him quickly turn his life around. McHenry County JTPA staff were pleased to have had such a successful placement. Ed's happy story is an inspiration — tangible proof that the JTPA program is efficient and works according to design.

Harold Jones

Work was no stranger to Harold Jones. Harold quit high school after his junior year to help support his ailing mother. In 1965, he joined the Purity Baking Company in Peoria as a machine operator, later advancing to shipping and receiving and, finally, transportation foreman. In 1967, he earned his G.E.D. And, although the Peoria bakery closed in 1972, Harold continued to work for Purity, transferring to its Bloomington bakery.

1989 brought the bad news: Purity was closing its Bloomington facility. Harold was devastated. "The first thing I thought of was, 'Here I am, 24 years on the job down the drain,'" he said. "When you work every day at a job to help support your family, to suddenly get that swept out from under your feet...you just don't know what to do."

Fortunately, Harold, along with several Purity co-workers, attended a meeting with the United Private Industry Council (UPIC), discussing programs and services for dislocated workers. Harold joined UPIC's Job Club, where he learned to write a resume, fill out a job application, and improved his interviewing skills. Newly confident, the Bloomington man located a position with America OTR through the On-the-Job Training Program. Upon completion of his training, Harold received a promotion, and now serves as department leader in quality control, earning a higher salary than when he left the bakery.

Harold went through some bleak periods, but he persevered and triumphed. He credits his wife, Carol, and the staff of UPIC and JTPA for his comeback. In a thank you note to the staff, Harold wrote: "I am just one of the many that has suffered in job loss. But one thing's for sure, I lost, but yet I gained. I found friendship and love in wonderful people who care and were concerned for their fellow man. People like you all. A very special thanks for the support of UPIC, in ways that I will remember forever. God bless all of you in a beauty beyond your dreams and may peace and contentment be the beauty of your heart. I write this for my esteemed appreciation for all of you."

Patricia Kershaw

Patricia Kershaw, her husband and young son packed their belongings and left Northern California behind in 1982, moving to Illinois to be nearer her husband's ill father. Patricia, a high school dropout with no marketable job skills, soon realized she needed education and training to find a job.

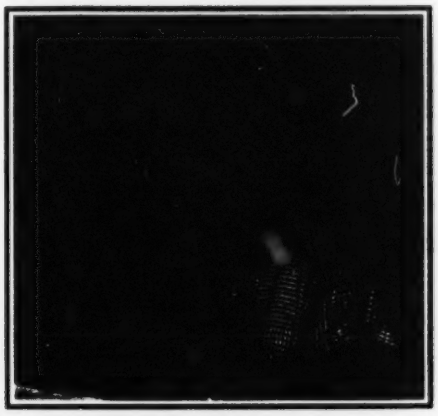
Turning to the JTPA office at Kankakee Community College, the St. Anne woman met Debbie Blomer, the counselor who would stand by her through years of hard work.

Debbie's first action was to enroll Patricia in a G.E.D. program. Patricia graduated in three months. Patricia then decided to enroll as a full-time student in the college's difficult Associate Degree in Nursing program. But before she could enter the program, Patricia had to successfully complete a pre-health curriculum of science and math courses. Although she was earning excellent grades, the birth of a second son forced Patricia to postpone studies.

Three years went by. Patricia completed her class work and was accepted into the nursing program. Once again, health intervened. Two emergency surgeries forced Patricia to withdraw from classes, yet she refused to give up. Regaining her health, Patricia resumed her studies. Her determination to be a nurse never flagged. In fact, one night Patricia finished typing a term paper even though she had gone into labor preparing to give birth to her third child!

Patricia graduated in 1990 and immediately was hired as a registered nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Kankakee's St. Mary's Hospital, where she works today.

"I love my job at St. Mary's Hospital," she says. "Here in Surgical Intensive Care, miracles happen. I don't think another career could be any more exciting to me. I want to thank God for JTPA and especially my counselor, Debbie Blomer, for helping me realize my dreams."



Chyrrise Lash

Chyrrise Lash grew up in a single-parent household on Chicago's South Side. Because her mother had to work to support the family, Chyrrise was often alone. But she was alone in other ways as well — Chyrrise Lash was born deaf.

School opened many avenues for Chyrrise. She learned American Sign Language and made many friends. She also became skilled in communicating with hearing people who did not sign. Chyrrise wanted to live independently, but her goals were stifled by others' misconceptions about deafness. Those who communicate through American Sign Language often write the way they sign — signing structure is vastly different from English. Consequently, the general public wrongly assumes an intellectual defect. "I have difficulty completing applications," Chyrrise said. "I didn't know how to convince an employer I could work. No one would hire me because they were afraid, or because they thought I was 'deaf and dumb.'"

Frustrated, Chyrrise sought assistance from the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services. She attended a community college, then was referred to the Jewish Vocational Service Program for the Hearing Impaired — a program funded by JTPA that assists the hearing impaired in developing skills and finding and keeping employment. Chyrrise participated in the clerical training program learning basic office skills, attended remedial math and reading classes and attended a Job-Seeking Skills Training Program, where she learned interview skills, how to use a sign language interpreter and complete job applications. "I felt so much more confident after I finished training," Chyrrise said. "I knew how to present myself to an employer and how to talk about my deafness."

With the help of Micki Baron-Gerstein, Job Placement Specialist, Chyrrise sought work. Baron-Gerstein says, "Chyrrise was very enthusiastic. She took responsibility and conducted her own job search. Her effort demonstrated a feeling of self-confidence." That effort was rewarded when Chyrrise was offered a job as a general office worker with a Chicago tax preparation company.

"I love my job and the people I work with," she says. "I'm the only deaf person, but I'm not alone."

Ron Lavoie

Ron Lavoie lacked confidence. The Aurora youth was hearing impaired, and, as a result, felt he didn't measure up to other students. Plus, he had become accustomed to having others help him, leaving him unmotivated.

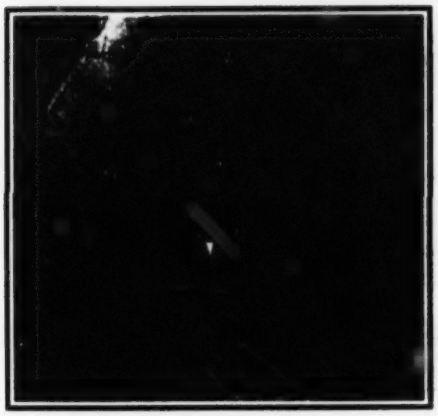
Ron's interest in drawing found an outlet in the summer youth program, operated by KDK (Kane-DeKalb-Kendall) Training, Employment and Business Services. Placed at Fermi National Laboratory, Ron applied his skills to drafting. Ron amazed his supervisors by producing a drawing comparable to those prepared by many college interns — on his first day at Fermilab! His supervisor, Ernie Villegas, said Ron's technique improved with every drawing. Even when needed corrections meant starting over, Ron's patience never failed. And his work ethic impressed everyone — not many 16-year-olds work 40 hours per week during summer vacation!

"When Ron was at Fermilab, he was constantly working," said Karen Sweeney, supported work specialist for the Northwestern Illinois Association. "He showed a lot of maturity in dealing with his responsibilities, yet behaved as though it wasn't a big deal to be responsible."

"Ron not only overcame obstacles, he was able to amaze everybody by utilizing the telephone to communicate at work — something he had never accomplished before," added Alex Zemansky, Ron's KDK summer counselor.

Ron performed his task so well that, in October 1990, he won the JTPA participant award for outstanding achievement. He and his mother, Linda, traveled to Springfield for the awards ceremony and banquet. In attendance were Kane County Board Chairman Frank Miller, private industry committee chairman Chuck Smith and other KDK staff.

"It was great to see Ron win this award," said Chuck Sutcliff, KDK's Aurora youth coordinator. "He has worked so hard this past year and this is the payoff."



Dan Matuszczak

Although he was only 24, Dan Matuszczak had quit or been terminated from 20 jobs. Dan faced many obstacles: he was the single parent of a two-year-old daughter, a high school dropout, and his driver's license had been suspended because of a DUI charge. Although he had earned his G.E.D. and a certificate in automotive mechanics from DuPage Area Vocational Education Association (DAVEA) Vocational Center, Dan had never held a job in that field.

When Dan came to the DuPage PIC/Job Training office in June 1990, he was desperate. He wanted to turn his life around for himself and his child. "I see myself at the bottom of a pit starting to climb out today," he wrote. "One year from now, I can see myself with a great career, saving some money aside, with an apartment for my daughter and me, and the biggest climb up the ladder of success."

After attending the preparatory workshop, Dan began working with Job Developer Linda Loebach in hopes of finding a job close to his Lombard home. Linda found three interested muffler/brake shops; one, Meineke, was interested in using On-the-Job Training to train him as a muffler installer.

Dan began working for Meineke in July 1990. He was still relying on a bicycle or friends to get to work and often had difficulty getting to work on time. His employer, Bob Murphy, patiently explained the need for punctuality and dependability. Dan got the message.

His training progressed steadily, and by October, Dan was successfully performing all his duties. Dan got a raise and enrolled in DUI counseling to regain his driver's license.

Today, Dan continues to work, is receiving DUI counseling and is well on his way up that "biggest climb up the ladder of success." On his final evaluation, Dan wrote, "Keep the (On-the-Job Training) program going. It really helps people looking for jobs with not enough experience."

Marcia McCreary

Thirty-year-old Marcia McCreary of Zion was struggling. The recently-divorced mother of two children, Marcia was supporting her family on public assistance. Her associate's degree in theology held little interest to prospective employers, and her lack of transportation made it difficult to hold down temporary jobs.

Marcia did not want to be trapped in the welfare system, but was unsure how to escape. An article about clerical training available through the Private Industry Council (PIC) of Lake County hit a responsive chord, and she called to investigate.

Marcia, however, was skeptical. An earlier experience with a training program had been disastrous — the teacher often skipped classes and the students never received their certificates. PIC instructor Mary James eased Marcia's concerns and convinced her to enroll in the three-month training program.

It wasn't easy. Marcia encountered problems finding babysitters and transportation. Her son had special health needs. Her confidence continued to ebb. And when it came time to interview for jobs, Marcia was frightened.

Mary James came to the rescue. "I came close to quitting the class, but Mrs. James would call me at home and encourage me to continue," Marcia says. "She cared enough about me to help me work things through." Mary James said, " I knew she wasn't a quitter. Marcia just needed that extra boost."

Mary James linked Marcia with a Job Club instructor to rehearse interviewing. It paid off — Marcia was hired as a senior clerk in the voter registration department of the County Clerk's office. Since then, she has been promoted to senior clerk in the election judge scheduling department, earning a higher wage and handling more responsibility.

"I recommend PIC to anyone who feels trapped and needs skills to succeed," Marcia says. "PIC has made a world of difference in my life."

Teri McElwee

Teri McElwee is a friendly, communicative, independent young woman, well on her way to a career in child care. Those who know the Camp Point woman would scarcely believe that one year ago she was so withdrawn that she had to ask her mother to speak for her.

Teri's struggle began at age 12, when she was diagnosed with a lemon-sized brain tumor. Although surgery successfully removed the tumor, Teri suffered seizures and tests showed a borderline IQ.

At age 18, Teri entered the Supportive Learning Program at John Wood Community College. During her initial interview, Teri was shy and withdrawn — her mother had to answer the questions. Teri was placed in adult basic classes in English and math.

The turnaround began. Teri was proud to be a student at John Wood Community College. She completed her classes within three months and enrolled in additional basic education classes. Although her seizures, previously controlled with medications, resumed, Teri continued her studies. During the summer, she worked with a college job coach, participating in a pilot program designed to help students learn job skills while earning a salary.

Teri's self-esteem was blooming. She decided on a career in child care and began classwork toward earning her certificate. Working with a study partner and completing extra projects, Teri earned good grades — even in these college-level courses!

Teri now is working part-time at a child care center — a position she sought on her own. No longer reliant on her mother to speak, Teri is confident and actively involved in planning her future.

Betty Pellegrini

Betty Pellegrini was well on her way to homelessness when Joliet local officials referred her to the Will County Private Industry Council. Known as "Bones," Betty was unemployed and had no permanent home — just a small hotel room. With no skills and no job, Betty lived on money received as settlement from an automobile accident. She was a regular on the streets and in the taverns, and, because she was quickly drinking away the little money she had, was about to be evicted from her hotel room.

Betty's visit to the Will County PIC saved her from becoming another faceless, homeless statistic. In her interview with a PIC counselor, Betty expressed her desire to work, but admitted to a lack of confidence in her ability to find employment. In truth, she faced a number of obstacles — she had no stable work history, she had no high school diploma, and she had no means of transportation.

PIC officials began the search to locate an employer near Betty's home willing to provide employment through the On-the-Job Training Program. Will County officials agreed to take a chance and placed her in a summer job at the Will County parking lot. Betty was thrilled to have a chance to work, and proved herself a dedicated and hard-working employee. At the end of the summer, Betty was transferred to the county's supply room, where she was responsible for ordering and dispensing office supplies for the entire county!

Betty continues to work as a full-time Will County employee and looks forward to many more years of productivity. Her story is an inspiration to others who come into the Will County PIC office, thinking the obstacles to employment are just too high to overcome. And Betty is quick to recognize PIC's significance in her life. "Without assistance from PIC, I would not be working today," Betty says. "They made me realize you can change things about your life."

In recognition of her determination and success, Betty Pellegrini was awarded an Illinois JTPA Outstanding Participant Award.

Laurie Powers

Life had not worked out as Laurie Powers had expected. Although willing to work, the single, unemployed mother of three had few skills and no high school diploma. Eight years on public assistance had left her disillusioned and discouraged.

Opportunity knocked in the form of a brochure from the Private Industry Council of Northern Cook County (PIC). The brochure invited Laurie to attend a two-week workshop, sponsored by PIC and Motorola, aimed at helping single mothers on welfare improve their job opportunities. Laurie hesitated, afraid of failure. Then, determined to succeed, the Rolling Meadows woman called to register.

At the workshop, Laurie met other women with stories similar to her own. She also met caring counselors who believed in her. PIC's goal was to offer women, out of the labor force for some time, training to enhance their ability to find and keep jobs. Through this program, "Enhancing Opportunities for Women," PIC provided basic skills and vocational training designed to meet needs of local employers. Participating businesses, like Motorola, agreed to hire the program participants and provide the assistance, mentoring and training needed to help them achieve success.

Laurie began as a test checker at Motorola. Based on her production level she was the number one test checker in her department. After only three months on the job, she received a raise.

Over the last year, Laurie has continued to excel at Motorola. She recently received another promotion to a secretarial position in Motorola's Mobile Data Division. This position offered her another salary increase as well as a shift in her work schedule to the normal office hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Motorola and PIC both agree that Laurie is dedicated, committed and confident. Laurie agrees. "I believe in myself," she says. "I've noticed a difference in my outlook on life. It scares me to think what would have happened if I had never picked up that phone."

Elias Quintero

Elias Quintero spoke little English, but it didn't matter. As a laborer at Wisconsin Steel, knowledge of the language was not really necessary to his job. But, as hard times hit the steel industry in the early 1980s, Elias Quintero found himself in a frightening position — laid off, with no means to support his family of 10.

He sought work, but found only sporadic employment. In his late forties, with no high school diploma and limited English skills, Elias was discouraged. "When I'd look for a job, employers wouldn't even give me the opportunity to fill out an application because I didn't speak English," he says.

Nine years passed, but Elias Quintero would not give up. Finally, the Chicago man turned to Employment and Employer Services, which receives funding through the Chicago Mayor's Office of Employment Training, for help.

First, Elias enrolled in an "English as a Second Language" course at Olive Harvey College. Then a break came — he was placed in an On-the-Job Training position at Oscar Mayer. During training, Elias received more than job skills — he also received counseling and guidance critical to his self-esteem. This renewed confidence is evident today in his performance as a shift manager overseeing the processing facilities at Oscar Mayer.

Margaret Langston, personnel assistant for Oscar Mayer, says Elias Quintero is one of the best employees at the plant. "He's been with us for a year-and-a-half now and continues to improve himself through continuing the 'English as a Second Language' class," she adds.

"This program changed my life," Elias says gratefully. "I am very proud to have a job where I feel I belong."

In honor of his determination, Elias Quintero recieved a participant award at the 1991 Service Provider banquet, co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training and the Chicago Private Industry Council.

Dorothey Roberts

Dorothey Roberts had a job. A nurse assistant, she dreamed of a career as a registered nurse. But there was no money for schooling — after nine years at her job, the Cahokia woman still needed food stamps to feed herself and her six children. And there were no extras — Dorothey's old house was so dilapidated that in the winter snow blew indoors.

In 1988, counselors at Belleville Area College referred Dorothey to the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department, with hopes that JTPA might fund her training to become a registered nurse. JTPA staff tested Dorothey and found she had exceptional reading and math skills, as well as drive and commitment. Her dreams were on their way to becoming reality — JTPA would pay for Dorothey's nursing training at Belleville Area College. The staff went one step further — they referred Dorothey to the St. Clair County Housing Authority, which placed her and her children in a better home; and to Project Chance, which helped her qualify for Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Mary Pulliam, JTPA Training Counselor, recalls, "Dorothey never asked for any special attention. We found out about her home conditions from instructors at the college. The only thing Dorothey ever asked for was the opportunity to go to school."

No longer worried about food and housing, Dorothey threw herself into her studies, arriving early for class and staying late to complete her work. Her example apparently impressed her children — they made the honor roll at school.

After two years of intense training, Dorothey earned her nursing pin. Today, she is employed as a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital in Belleville, earning twice her former salary. Grateful for the help she received, she now volunteers at the Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis. Her children continue to earn scholastic honors. But Dorothey hasn't forgotten the bad times. "I didn't have any money before I came to JTPA. It's good to know that now, if the kids need something for school, I can afford to get it for them. Even little things like paper or pencil were a struggle before."

Betty Sasade

Education and training have made the difference in Betty Sasade's life. A native of Southern Illinois, Betty quit school at 14 when her father's death forced her to go to work to help her family make ends meet. Married at 16, she and her new husband moved to Chicago to find work. For the next 10 years the couple worked at various factory jobs but longed to return to Southern Illinois to rear their two children.

When the family moved to Macedonia, Betty realized she needed an education to find a job. In 1984, she successfully earned her G.E.D. and was employed by a nearby boat manufacturer. Three years later she was laid off. Undaunted, Betty cleaned houses and volunteered at the Salvation Army, organizing a thrift shop, delivering food to the needy and helping senior citizens with domestic chores.

In 1990, Betty went to Rend Lake College seeking training. She had heard that a local tire manufacturer would soon be hiring, and knew her chances of landing a job would be enhanced through training. Referred to the JTPA client service center, she was placed in the Women's Initiative Program, which recruits women into non-traditional training for placement in male-dominated occupations. Betty enrolled in basic skills classes to improve her math skills, then entered the technology literacy course, learning first-hand about computers. Finally, she participated in a career entry workshop to polish her interviewing skills and resume.

Betty applied for work with the tire manufacturer. She successfully passed two interviews and a physical examination. Thanks to her basic skills class, she made a perfect score on the company's math test. But things weren't going so well at home — Betty's husband was laid off from his job and ineligible for unemployment. Resigned to applying for public assistance, Betty got the call — General Tire wanted her to come to work as a tire builder!

Betty knows the training she received made the difference. "I still can't believe my dream has come true," she says.

John Small

At one time, John Small had it all. With 23 years as a mechanical engineer and construction superintendent, he was the one others went to for assistance. John could visualize and carry out the safe movement of large drilling rigs. He engineered their setup, takedown, and transportation.

Then in 1983, John's eyes started bothering him. Years of welding had built up a pressure in his eyes. Over the next seven years, John became legally blind in both eyes. He was awarded a seeing-eye dog. He spent all of his life savings on doctor bills and living expenses.

Finally, John found a doctor who thought he could help restore his sight through surgery. John underwent a special implant surgery, which after seven years of blindness restored his eyesight to near normal.

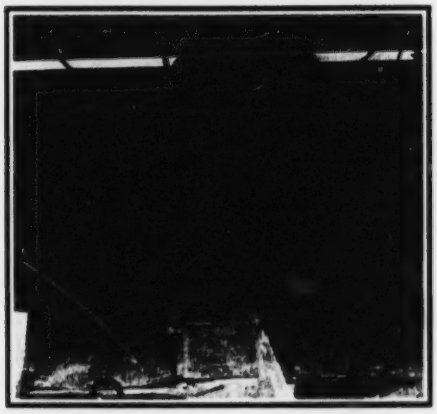
With his eyesight restored, John was still at a loss. Now, at 58 years of age, he had been out of work for nearly eight years. While he could once again see, he was no longer physically able to perform his old job. John didn't know what to do or where to turn.

It was at this point that John found his way to JTPA. He entered SDA 12's 55+ Program designed specifically for older workers. After working with him, it became clear to John's counselor that his interests were still in the field of construction. The challenge became to discover ways his skills and abilities in construction could be put to use when he wasn't physically able to do the work he once had done.

Counselors considered putting John's construction knowledge to work in a new and different way. John could use his inside experience and knowledge to sell construction contracts and check worksites.

John had gone through the job search program and the new idea excited him. With increasing confidence, John interviewed with a local construction company. John was unfamiliar with sales, but the company hired him anyway. With the help of an on-the-job training agreement, the company trained John for his "new" career in sales.

John had begun to turn his world back around. He went from being on food stamps to having a job that paid $12.50 an hour. He not only had his eyesight back, but also his confidence and dignity.



Sandra Smith

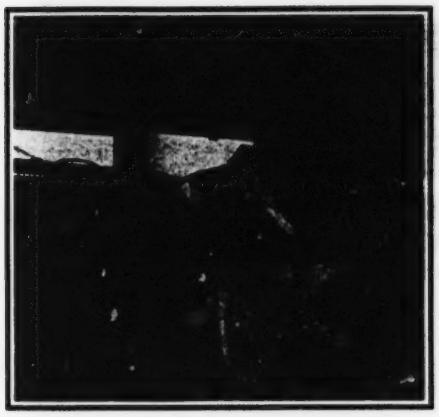
Sandra Smith wanted a career. A single mother and student at Alton High School, Sandra participated in the Vocational Exploration Program (VEP), a component of the JTPA Summer Youth Program, which introduces youths to careers and vocational programs, enhances personal communication skills, and helps map out career goals. At school, Sandra enrolled in the Office Education program, developing her skills as a clerical assistant at Olin Corporation. She also joined Junior Achievement and the Future Business Leaders of America.

Her excellent evaluation from VEP helped Sandra earn a position as a clerical assistant with the program, working at the Madison County Urban League. It changed her life — Sandra became fascinated with a career in social services. Graduating from high school, Sandra enrolled at Lewis and Clark Community College, but continued to polish her academic and clerical skills as a limited work experience participant at the Alton JTPA office.

Sandra impressed her co-workers. She was offered a summer staff position in the Alton office for four consecutive summers, and was given more responsibility each year. Her experience as one who had "been there" made her an excellent spokesperson for the program while performing outreach and enrollment duties with the Greater Alton Area School Districts. Her counselor, Debra Chamness, said, "Sandra went from a young girl of the projects to a mature young lady concerned with helping her peers."

Sandra married, had a second child, then moved to Colorado where her husband, a member of the U.S. Army, was stationed. A few months later, he was transferred to Germany. Sandra found herself back in Alton, again alone, but with two children to feed. Fortunately, a permanent staff position was open in the Alton JTPA office. Sandra applied and was hired as receptionist/typist.

Sandra continues to work toward a future as a social worker, and credits JTPA with much of her success. "I have come in contact with a lot of interesting people on my job, and I always feel good when we are able to help an individual through one of our programs," she says.



Copache Tyler

Copache Tyler has come a long way from his childhood in the Chicago public housing projects. Today, Copache is a basic skills tutor for JTPA clients at the high school in Lincoln. And he credits the JTPA Summer Youth Program with his inspiration.

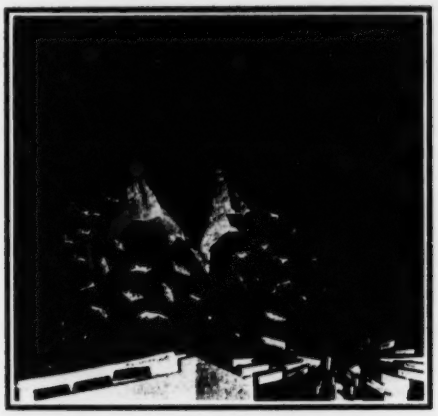
Copache was on his way to trouble. His mother, Bee, unable to work because of disabilities from polio, supported her family on public assistance and disability payments. Bee was dismayed at the environment surrounding her children — drugs, violence, hopelessness. She saw that environment reflected in Copache — a freshman at Crane High School, he skipped so many classes, that, after seven months, he had earned less than one credit.

Bee moved her family to Springfield and, with the encouragement of Southeast High School wrestling coaches Jack Gardner and John Oates, Copache buckled down. His attendance improved, and although he lacked one credit for graduation, he earned his G.E.D. He also enrolled in the Sangamon County Summer Youth Program, working at the Boy's Club, the Community Action Agency, and, finally, at Springfield College.

"JTPA gave me something to look forward to in the summer and gave me direction in life," Copache says. "The program helped me avoid mistakes because the people involved became my friends and I was able to confide in them."

Copache's continued interest in wrestling led him to Triton College and wrestling coach Rex Branum. When Branum moved to Lincoln College, Copache followed. He completed his education at Eastern Illinois University, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education.

In his current tutoring job, Copache says he tries to give his students the same kind of personal attention that his coaches, supervisors and counselors gave him. He says he's always ready to listen to their problems and help where he can. Copache says, "Now I look at the JTPA kids in class and I feel these kids have lots of the same problems I had as a youngster."



Rita Williams

Rita Williams wanted a job. Rita's husband was out of work, and although she had some clerical skills, she couldn't find a job either. Reluctantly, the Blue Island woman swallowed her pride and accepted public assistance to support her family.

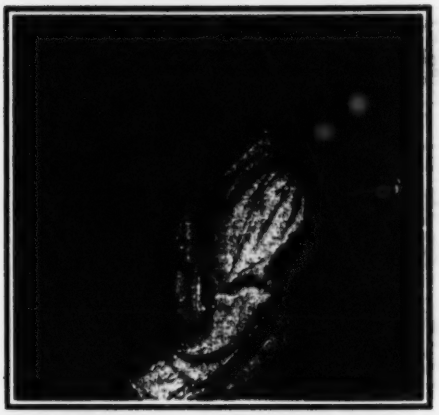
Rita, however, was ambitious and wanted to work. A staff member at the Project Chance office in Blue Island suggested she seek further skills training to enhance her chances of finding employment. Rita was urged to contact the Cook County President's Office of Employment and Training (POET) in Markham to learn more about training opportunities that might be available.

At the POET office, Rita was interviewed by Mary Smith, an assessment counselor. Mary recognized that Rita had basic skills, but needed to update those skills to successfully function in today's high-tech office environment. Rita was referred to Advanced Technical Training Center, one of the JTPA service providers, for training in word processing.

Rita was excited about this new opportunity. She completed her coursework at the training center with a perfect attendance record. Learning that the Southwest YMCA in Alsip needed a word processor, Rita applied for the job, was interviewed and hired.

Today, Rita Williams is working full time at the YMCA and is no longer receiving public assistance. Writing to the POET office, she said, "I am officially off of the welfare rolls and would like to thank those who helped me. Mrs. Mary Smith, my assessment counselor, was very helpful in assisting me to make the proper choice of a school for the training that I desired."

Rita Williams wanted to work. Thanks to JTPA, Rita got the training she needed to leave public assistance and support her family. In doing so, she regained her pride and is able to set a positive example for her children.



Sik Yu Tsang (John)

Sik Yu Tsang left Hong Kong to seek opportunity in the United States. A willing worker, he landed a job as a cook in a Chinese restaurant in Chicago. But, four years later with a new family to support, the 39-year-old man knew he must expand his cooking skills to further his chances at advancement.

Language skills, however, were a major obstacle. Sik Yu's limited knowledge of English held back his ability to seek training in other cooking styles. Fortunately, a friend told Sik Yu about assistance available through the Chinese American Service League. Soon, Sik Yu was attending a vocational English language class, as well as a chef training program, funded through the Chicago Mayor's Office of Employment and Training.

Sik Yu's enthusiasm and cooking skills impressed his instructors and fellow students. In fact, after graduation, Sik Yu was placed as a chef at the prestigious Marriott Hotel in downtown Chicago, where he now earns $10 per hour with excellent benefits.

John Berger, the hotel's food service director, has high praise for Sik Yu Tsang. "Sik Yu is wonderful," he says. "He's cheerful, energetic, dependable, and he knows his business. There's no comparison with other chefs who have come in from the outside. We communicate very well, and he often comes up with great ideas. I couldn't ask for more in an employee."

Sik Yu, who hopes to open his own restaurant one day, said the JTPA program, the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training, the Chinese American Service League and, particularly, the chef training program, are responsible for his success. "I enjoyed it very much," he says. "The program offers anyone who would like to have a career in the food service industry a step in the right direction. I learned a great deal."

JTPA — Serving Illinois

JTPA is a unique program. A partnership between the federal government, states, local communities, educators, labor, business and the social services, JTPA programs nationwide have helped more than 10 million Americans gain self-confidence and skills necessary to become productive members of society.

Administered in Illinois by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, JTPA programs are operated at the local level by Private Industry Councils in 26 Service Delivery Areas. Together, these organizations serve thousands of Illinoisans — dislocated workers, farmers needing employment off the farm, displaced homemakers, youths, senior workers and the disadvantaged.

JTPA's statistics illustrate the program's success. For further information on JTPA programs, contact DCCA or the SDA serving your area.

JTPA Program Year 90

July 1, 1990-June 30, 1991

TITLE IBO
OLDER INDIVIDUALS PROGRAMS

Number of Participants	1,705
Number Placed in Jobs	878
Percent of Terminees Placed in Jobs	63%
Percent Females Served	64%
Percent Minorities Served	37%
African Americans Served	28%
Hispanics Served	4%
Others Served	5%

TITLE II-A
TRAINING SERVICES FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS

Number of Participants	38,386
Number of Adults & Youth Placed in Jobs	15,904
Percent of Terminees Placed in Jobs	59%
Percent Females Served	56%
Percent Minorities Served	51%
African Americans Served	39%
Hispanics Served	10%
Others Served	2%

TITLE II-B (10/1/89-9/30/90)
SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Number of Participants	27,772
Percent Females Served	50%
Percent Minorities Served	73%
African Americans Served	59%
Hispanics Served	11%
Others Served	3%

TITLE III (A,G,N)
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS

Number of Participants	18,114
Number Placed in Jobs	6,911
Percent of Terminees Placed in Jobs	70%
Percent Females Served	47%
Percent Minorities Served	28%
African Americans Served	19%
Hispanics Served	7%
Others Served	2%

1. County of Lake
(708) 249-2200

2. McHenry County
(815) 338-7100

3. Rock River Training Corp.
(815) 229-2770

4. Northwest Illinois JTPA
(815) 625-3623

5. KDK Trng., Empl. & Bus. Svcs.
(708) 406-0670

6. DuPage Co. Dept. of Human Res.
(708) 682-7884

7. Cook Co. Pres. Off. of Emp. & Tr.
(312) 201-3100

8. PIC of No. Cook Co.
(708) 699-9040

9. Mayor's Office of Empl. & Trng.
(312) 744-7700

10. Will County PIC, Inc.
(815) 886-5055

11. Kankakee Community College
(815) 933-0373

12. Bus. Emp. Skills Team, Inc.
(815) 433-4550

13. Rock Island Tri-Co. Consortium
(309) 793-5200

14. Carl Sandburg College
(309) 344-1575

15. Private Industry Council
(309) 672-8513

16. United Private Industry Council
(309) 353-4475

17. Champaign Consortium
(217) 384-8640

18. Vermilion Co. Job Trng. Part.
(217) 443-8700

19. Macon Co. Empl. &
Trng. Grts. Adm.
(217) 424-1475

20. Land of Lincoln Consortium
(217) 525-7060

21. SDA 21, Private Industry Council
(217) 854-9642

22. Madison Co. Empl. & Trng. Dept.
(618) 692-6200, Ext. 4445

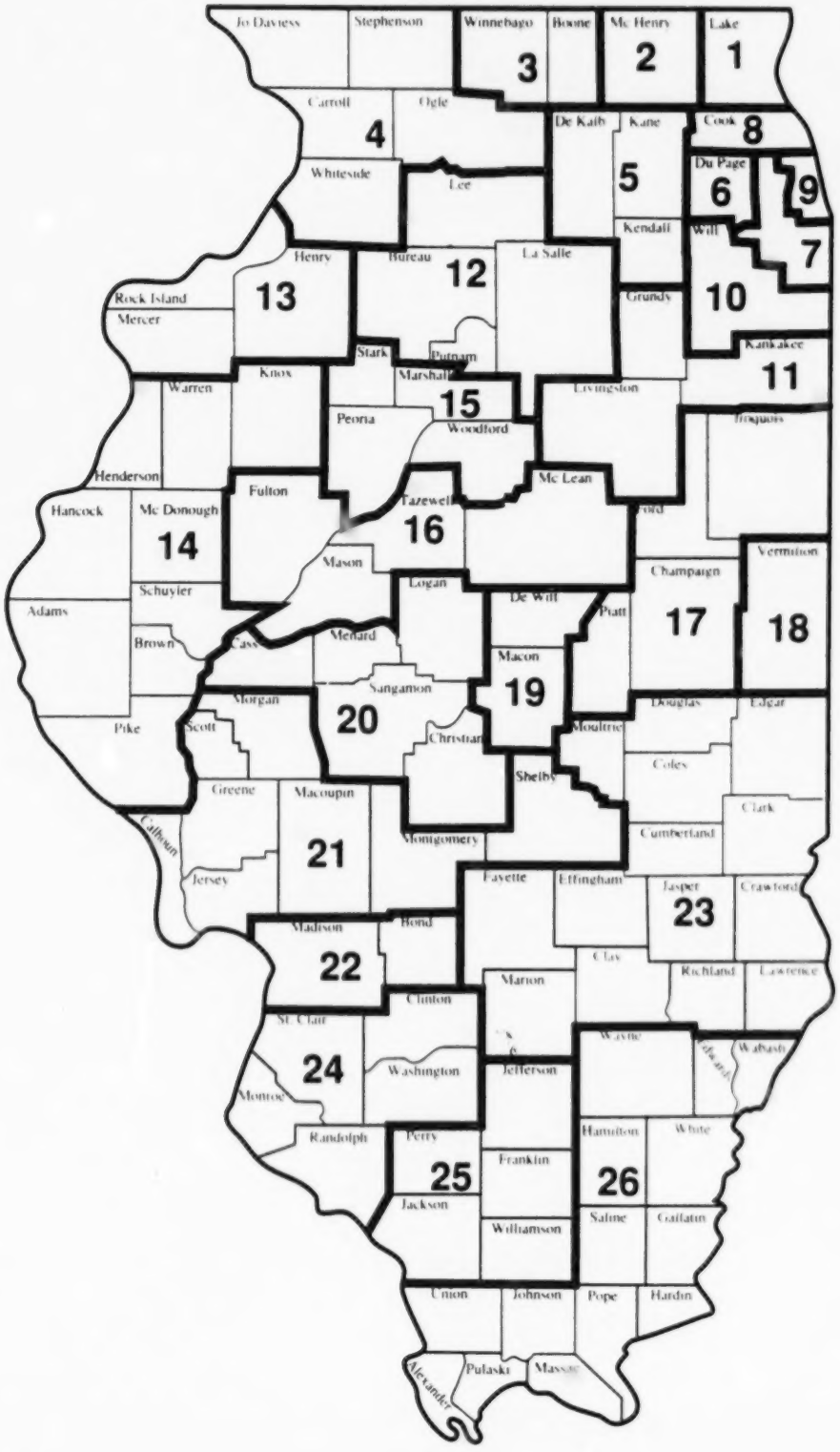
23. Embarras River Basin Agency
(217) 923-3113

24. St. Clair Co. Intergov. Gr. Dept.
(618) 277-6790, Ext. 260

25. Ill. Farmers Union Trng., Inc.
(618) 596-2781

26. PIC, Inc.- SDA #26
(618) 253-3331

Illinois
Service Delivery Areas



Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois
W.O. 9499 7000 1/92